TRAVANCORE
GOVERNMENT GAZETTE,
SUPPLEMENT.

Tuesday
5th Sept. 1899.

# Abstract Proceedings of the Travancore Legislative Council.

The Council met in the Dewan's room, Public Offices, at 3 P. M. on Saturday the 2nd September 1899. / 18th Chingom 1075.

PRESENT.

M. R. Ry. K. Krishnaswamy Rao Avergal,
Dewan Bahadur., F. M. U.,
Dewan ... ... *Presiding.*

M. R. Ry. V. Nagam Aiya Avergal B. A., F. R. H. S.
M. R. Ry. P. Thanu Pillai Avergal, M. A., F. M. U.
Mr. C. J. Maltby.
Mr. I. H. Prince.
M. R. Ry. E. Ramier Avergal.
M. R. Ry. K. Kochukrishna Marar Avergal, B. A. & B. I
Mr. T. C. Poonen, B. A., Barrister-at-law.

Secretary.—I beg to announce that the Wills Bill passed by the Council on the 27th May 1899 received the assent of His Highness the Maha Rajah on the 30th May 1899, and has become law as Regulation VI of 1074, with effect from the 1st day of Mithunam 1074.

## BILL TO AMEND "THE GOVERNMENT LAND CONSERVANCY REGULATION, II OF 1067."

Mr. Thanu Pillai.—This Bill has been published in the Gazette under Rule 32, but the period of 15 days prescribed in Rule 33 has not elapsed. I beg therefore to move that the latter part of Rule 33 be suspended to enable me to introduce the Bill at this meeting.

The Council having suspended the Rule, Mr. Thanu Pillai introduced the Bill, and in doing so, said:—

"This is a very short Bill and, I think, it requires no further explanation than what is contained in the Statement of Objects and Reasons. The enabling provision contained in the single section of the Bill is intended to ensure the speedy disposal of cases of unauthorized occupation of Porumboke and other Government lands. The number of these cases is far too large to be promptly dealt with by the single officer of each Division, who alone under the Regulation is competent to deal with them. In Taluqs which are under settlement operations, the disposal of Revenue cases is entrusted to settlement officers, who may also, for the sake of administrative convenience, be empowered to deal with cases under this Regulation. I trust the Council will see no objection to the principle of the proposed amendment to the existing law."

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The Council unanimously affirmed the principle of the Bill.

Mr. Thanu Pillai then moved that Rule 45 be suspended to enable the Council to proceed with the consideration of the Bill and observed:—"Being a simple measure, I think it is not necessary to refer it to a Select Committee and would propose that the Bill may be taken up for consideration by the Council."

Seconded by Mr. Prince.

The Rule having been suspended, the Bill was considered by the Council and adopted without amendment and it was resolved that the final reading be deferred to a future day of which notice shall be given.

## PUBLIC CONVEYANCES BILL.

Mr. Thanu Pillai.—At the last meeting of the Council when I asked for leave to introduce this Bill, I explained briefly the scope and object of the measure. I think I need only say a word or two now as to the several provisions of the Bill.

Section 1 contains the usual preliminary matter. Section 2 contains definitions of certain words used in the Bill, of which 'Public Conveyance' is the only term calling for special remark. It is defined as including all kinds of vehicles worked by mechanical power, provided they are used for the carriage of traffic for hire, by land or water. It will be seen that vehicles worked by mechanical power which are owned by private individuals and used for their own comfort or locomotion, or lent to their friends gratuitously, are outside the scope of the definition and therefore of the Bill itself. Section 3 prohibits the establishment of public conveyances by persons other than those licensed by Government. Sections 4 to 7 prescribe the procedure to be followed in regard to applications for licenses and indicate the conditions under which licenses can be granted. Section 8 contains an enabling provision for cancelling licenses once granted. The licensee is practically a monopolist, and if he does not establish the public conveyance for which he has obtained sanction within the time prescribed, or if after establishing the same he discontinues it, the public will be put to real inconvenience. Hence the section is necessary in the interests of the travelling public. Section 9 contains a provision enabling Government to make rules for carrying out the purposes of the measure. In fact one peculiar feature of this Bill is that the enacting portion is confined to a few general principles, while all details are left to be regulated by rules.

Sections 10, 11, 12 and 13 contain punitive provisions. Sections 10, 12 and 13 are intended for the protection of the licensee and section 11 for the protection of the public. Such provisions find a place in similar Acts in British India.

The last section will, I think, commend itself to the Council without any words from me. That section empowers Government to extend the provisions of this Bill to any transit service by land or water. I am sure all of us are aware of the extreme inconvenience caused to the public by the existing transit service. The want of a law to regulate the transit service is generally felt and this section gives the necessary power to Government.

I think I have now explained the main provisions of the Bill and I need not take up the time of the Council with any further remarks. The regulation of public conveyances and the exposition and enforcement of the responsibilities and duties of public carriers have been recognised to be within the province of the legislature in all civilized countries—witness the Railway Acts, Tramway Acts, Common Carriers Acts generally. I trust the Council will accept the principle of the Bill.

The Council having affirmed the principle of the Bill, Mr. Thanu Pillai proposed that the Bill be referred to a Select Committee consisting of Messrs. Prince, Ramier, Kochukrishna Marar and the Mover, to report within 3 weeks.

Seconded by Mr. Maltby.

Carried.

## VAKILS REGULATION AMENDMENT BILL.

Mr. Ramier.—I beg to present the Report of the Select Committee on this Bill and move that it be published in the Gazette and taken up for consideration

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